Increase in imports

3570. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items whose import has increaed during the recent years;

(b) the reasons for increase in import; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce imports to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per latest provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI &S) the details of major items (having weight more than 1%) whose import has increased during April 04-Feb. 05 as compared to corresponding period of last year are as under:–

(Value in Rs. crore)

Items	April 03-Feb. 04	April 04-Feb. 05	% Change	Weight
Petroleum, Crude & Products	84849.00	119681.00	41.03	27.83
Gold	26415.64	42408.89	60.54	9.86
Electronic Goods	30719.52	39253.49	27.78	9.13
Perls Prcus.\ Semiprcs. Stones	29934.62	37441.09	25.08	8.71
Machry. Excpt. Elec. & Electronic	19481.58	25891.00	32.90	6.02
Organic Chemicals	11372.45	15054.60	32.38	3.50
Coal, Coke & Briquittes etc.	5866.93	11314.44	92.85	2.63
Iron & Steel	5690.78	9378.98	64.81	2.18
Metalifers ores & Metal Scrap	5221.07	9283.22	77.80	2.16
Inorganic Chemicals	5337.05	6172.26	15.65	1.44
Profsnl. Inst., etc. except Electronic	5045.20	5887.72	16.70	1.37
Artfcl. Resns., Plstc. Materials, etc.,	4500.97	5587.73	24.15	1.30
Non-Ferrous Metals	3693.71	5116.31	38.51	1.19
Elect. Machry. Excpt. Electronic	3581.70	4657.76	30.04	1.08

(b) and (c) Imports of all items are subejct to market forces within the parameters of Foreign Trade Policy. A large portion of our imports are necessary to sustain economic growth. The imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious deteriment or injury to the domestic producers.